

AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 1 and 11 are currently amended, and no claims are canceled, withdrawn, or newly presented.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of propagating changes to a table, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site;

maintaining a second copy of the table at a second site;

transmitting changes to the first copy of the table from the first site to the second site; and

updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on the transmitted changes;

wherein the first copy of the table and the second copy of the table resulting from said transmitting and updating have at least one non-overlapping relational database column.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping relational database column is present in the first copy and missing in the second copy.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping relational database column is missing in the first copy and present in the second copy.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of reconciling differences in the column shape of the first copy and the column shape of the second copy for the transmitted changes.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining a top flavor describing overlapping relational database columns and non-overlapping relational database columns of the table.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
defining a first flavor describing the columns of the first copy; and
transmitting an indicator of the first flavor from the first site to the second site.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
defining a second flavor describing the columns of the second copy; and
wherein the step of updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on the transmitted changes includes the step of updating overlapping columns between the first flavor and the second flavor in the second copy of the table.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the step of maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site includes the step of maintaining an updatable snapshot at a laptop computer site; and
the step of maintaining a second copy of the table at a second site includes the step of maintaining a master table at a master site.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of modifying a table to drop a first column and add a second column, said table being replicated at a plurality of sites, comprising the steps of:

(a) defining a first flavor for a first site, said first flavor describing the table as having both the first column and the second column;

- (b) adding the second column to the table at the first site, so that the table contains both the first column and the second column;
- (c) defining a second flavor for a second site, said second flavor describing the table as having the second column but not the first column;
- (d) dropping the first column and adding the second column to the table at the second site;
- (e) defining the second flavor for the first site and dropping the first column from the table at the first site; and
- (f) maintaining replication activities while performing steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e).

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of maintaining replication activities includes the steps of:

- transmitting changes to the table from the first site to the second site; and
- updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on overlapping columns between the first flavor and the second flavor.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of propagating changes to a data container, comprising the steps of:

- maintaining a first copy of the data container at a first site;
- maintaining a second copy of the data container at a second site;
- transmitting changes to the first copy of the data container from the first site to the second site; and
- updating the second copy of the data container at the second site based on the transmitted changes;

wherein the first copy of the data container and the second copy of the data container resulting from said transmitting and updating have at least one non-overlapping data field.

12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first copy of the table and the second copy of the table have said at least one non-overlapping relational database column after said updating.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the first copy of the data container and the second copy of the data container have said at least one non-overlapping data field after said updating.